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PUBLIC NOTICE NO. MT-15-22
April 6, 2015

**LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL
POLICY OFFICE**

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE

The purpose of this notice is to state the Department's intention to issue a wastewater discharge permit to the facility listed in this notice. This permit is issued by the Department under the authority of 75-5-402, Montana Code Annotated (MCA); the Administrative Rules of Montana (ARM) 17.30.1301 *et seq.*, Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES); and Sections 402 and 303 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Water Protection Bureau has prepared a draft permit for the facility listed below. Copies of the draft permit, fact sheet, and environmental assessment are available upon request from the Water Protection Bureau or on the Department's website www.deq.mt.gov.

APPLICANT INFORMATION

APPLICANT: City of Whitefish
PO Box 158
Whitefish, MT 59937-0158

FACILITY NAME: City of Whitefish Wastewater Treatment Facility

FACILITY LOCATION: 300 Monegan Road, Whitefish, MT

RECEIVING WATER: Whitefish River

PERMIT NUMBER: MT0020184

This permitting action is the renewal of an existing Montana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (MPDES) permit for discharge from the City of Whitefish Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). The WWTF is a major publicly-owned treatment facility consisting of aerated lagoons followed by mechanical phosphorus treatment, with disinfection by chlorination. DEQ has maintained the instantaneous chronic and acute mixing zones because the treated effluent is discharged through a diffuser into Whitefish River.

This permit renewal maintains the concentration-based effluent limits for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD₅), total suspended solids (TSS), and total residual chlorine (TRC); *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria limits; allowable pH range; and % removal of BOD₅ and

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TSS. This renewal provided an increase in the allowable average monthly mass-based load of BOD₅ based on a corrected error, and weekly BOD₅ and TSS based to reflect the current facility design flow. Ammonia and dissolved aluminum limits were added, and nutrient limits were tightened. Monitoring requirements will ensure the facility is in compliance with these limits. Special conditions were added, including the requirement to conduct a nutrient optimization study.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comments are invited ANYTIME PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS May 5, 2015. Comments may be directed to the DEQ Permitting & Compliance Division, Water Protection Bureau, PO Box 200901, Helena, MT 59620. All comments received or postmarked PRIOR TO CLOSE OF BUSINESS May 5, 2015 will be considered in the formulation of final determinations to be imposed on the permits. If you wish to comment electronically, you may e-mail the Department at DEQWPBPublicComments@mt.gov.

During the public comment period provided by the notice, the Department will accept requests for a public hearing. A request for a public hearing must be in writing and must state the nature of the issue proposed to be raised in the hearing (ARM 17.30.1373).

The Department will respond to all substantive comments and issue a final decision within sixty days of this notice or as soon as possible thereafter. Additional information may be obtained upon request by calling (406) 444-3080 or by writing to the aforementioned address. The complete administrative record, including permit application and other pertinent information, is maintained at the Water Protection Bureau office in Helena and is available for review during business hours.

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